

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact: Darlene Din  
(831) 682-0734  
[darlene@growershipper.com](mailto:darlene@growershipper.com)

## **Grower-Shipper Association Foundation Announces Ag Knowledge Program Class III**

Salinas, CA (April 7, 2009) – The Grower-Shipper Association Foundation is proud to announce the fellows accepted to the 2009 Ag Knowledge Program (Class III). These 19 community members will participate in an eight-month executive leadership program focused on the heritage, diversity, stewardship, and complexity of Monterey County agriculture and the interdependencies that exist between agriculture, local government, and the community.

Mary Orradre, a member of the Grower Shipper Association Foundation's Board of Directors, says that the class focus will be on sustainability in 2009. "This class is made up of a diverse and extraordinary group of individuals representing many industries and varied life experiences. Agricultural sustainability and viability will be the focus of their curriculum, with an emphasis on people, profit and environment in agricultural production. Although sustainability is a relatively new term, students will learn that agriculture is an industry that has remained viable for centuries. Agriculture has remained sustainable because of the industry's ability to be innovative, using science and technology, and by adapting to change and new ideas, thereby producing strong, visionary leaders and communities."

Courses focus on issues affecting and influenced by the local agricultural industry, including food safety and security, labor and immigration, technology, marketing, conservation, urban/agriculture interfacing, air, water and much more. The fellows will spend one Friday a month over the course of the program attending forums and visiting farms, processing facilities and meeting leaders and innovators in the industry. One of the program's most popular facets includes a "day on the farm" with a local grower.

AgKnowledge Class III is made up of the following community members: Don Bachman - Deputy Executive Director, Transportation Agency of Monterey County; Leti M. Bocanegra - Special Projects Manager, Kasavan Architects; Ian Crosno - Product Business Analyst, Driscoll Strawberry Associates; Kathy Cruz-Uribe - Provost, California State University Monterey Bay; Hakan Erdinc - V.P. Sr. Relationship Manager, Rabobank, N.A. Agribusiness Division; Virginia

Etchepare - Export Sales, Driscoll Strawberry Associates; Tia Gindick - Tia Gindick Communications; Lindsey Hong - AVP Trust & Investment Business Development Officer, Rabobank, N.A.; Michele Ing - Financial Advisor, Edward Jones Investments; Virginia Jameson - Conservation & Development Analyst, Ag Land Trust; Christopher M. Lopez - Board Aide to Monterey County Supervisor Simón Salinas; Steve Mason - Assistant Planner: Williamson Act, County of Monterey; Kristi Markey- Board Aide to Monterey County Supervisor Jane Parker; Dawn Mathes - Agricultural Program Manager, Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's Office; Bob Mills - Director of Food Safety/Quality Assurance, Tanimura & Antle; Sandy Oliveira - Certified Public Accountant, Hayashi & Wayland Accounting & Consulting; Jacqueline Onciano - Planning Services Manager, Resource Management Monterey County; Kathleen Thomasberg - Project/Program Manager, Monterey County Water Resources Agency; Donald J. Winn - President, Winn & Company Insurance Business Brokers.

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